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view of the vast amount of southern exports and the dependence of Europe upon southern cotton, secession might not be an inexpedient step for the South. Giles was a forceful speaker, a formidable debater, and a ready writer, but his style was vituperative and his point of view partisan. Professor Anderson has performed his task well and produced an interesting volume.

JOHN H. LATANÉ.

*Abraham Lincoln: The Lawyer-Statesman.* By JOHN T. RICHARDS. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1916. Pp. vii, 260.)

Few statesmen have faced such complicated and baffling problems as those which confronted Abraham Lincoln during the vexed years from 1860 to 1865. Few statesmen during such a period have met with so much hostile criticism, some justified, much unjustified. Even his own party failed to give him the united support that might reasonably have been expected, and the man who today is hailed with nearly universal praise was then the subject of abuse and even vilification. From his own party he often received half-hearted and grudging support; the Abolitionists, many of whom differed with him on methods and policies, criticized him bitterly; while the Democrats, realizing that he owed his election in 1860 to a split in their ranks, hailed him as a minority President, blamed him for most of the evils that had fallen upon the country, and poured out upon him the vials of their wrath. Indeed, so popular is the memory of Lincoln today that there is danger of the real Lincoln being obscured by the Lincoln of myth and hero-worship. There is danger that the difficulties of his administration, which were often increased by criticism and lack of united support, may seem small in light of the view of Lincoln which obtains generally today. Even the best of the biographies of Lincoln, the pretentious work of his secretaries, Nicolay and Hay, suffers from the fact that they were too close to their beloved chief to be entirely impartial and often saw the object of their friendship and youthful service out of perspective—Lincoln appearing too large and the other men who worked with him or who opposed him too small. The character and work of Abraham Lincoln still offer fruitful fields for historical investigations, and it is not unlikely that the true biography of the real Lincoln is yet to be written. Before such a work can be produced there are certain phases of Lincoln's private and political career that must be carefully investi-

gated and the results of such investigation presented in a clear and concise manner. The value of the work of Mr. Richards lies in the fact that it is work of this character.

The author, as he states in his preface, has no intention of writing a complete biography of Abraham Lincoln. His work is a presentation of the results of his investigations into "the record of Abraham Lincoln as a lawyer, his views upon the subjects of universal suffrage and the reconstruction of the Confederate state governments at the close of the Civil War, and his attitude toward the judiciary, upon which there has been considerable misunderstanding in recent years. To these there has been added a chapter devoted to some consideration of his standing as an orator."

By far the most important part of the book is the part dealing with Mr. Lincoln's legal career. The chapter entitled "In the Courts" contains a thorough discussion of Mr. Lincoln's legal practice and descriptions of the most important cases in which he appeared as an attorney-at-law. In an appendix the author has given in concise form the one hundred and seventy-five cases in the supreme court of Illinois in which Mr. Lincoln appeared as counsel. As this court was the only appellate tribunal and the court of last resort in the State of Illinois during the period of his professional activities, a study of these cases is essential to any fair judgment of Mr. Lincoln's legal ability and the scope and character of his practice. Here also are given the two cases in which Mr. Lincoln appeared before the bar of the supreme court of the United States. From the evidence thus presented Mr. Richards concludes that Mr. Lincoln was a capable lawyer of high standing, whose reputation as a lawyer was forgotten by the men of his day because it was soon "overshadowed by the greater labors and accomplishments of Abraham Lincoln, the profound statesman and the savior of his country." Here he takes issue with the view of Mr. Joseph H. Choate who held that Lincoln although a great President was not an accomplished lawyer. Mr. Richards believes that it was Mr. Lincoln's greatness as a lawyer that made him a great President, and that enabled him to grasp the paramount issue of the Civil War, namely, the preservation of the Union.

In clearly pointing out the attitude of President Lincoln toward the southern States during the Civil War, and his policy for the reconstruction of the State governments in them, Mr. Richards has done a good piece of work. He shows that President Lincoln "sought to aid and encourage those States to reestablish themselves as members of

the Union. He was never inclined to force negro suffrage upon them, but believed that the States should be left free to grant or withhold the right of suffrage as each State might determine for itself." Of the fact that Lincoln was opposed to the system, now known as "Carpet-Bag Government," he offers conclusive proof by well-chosen citations from Lincoln's writings.

Regarding the oft-repeated claim of the advocates of woman suffrage that Mr. Lincoln favored their cause, Mr. Richards finds only the well-known statement: "I go for all sharing the privileges of the government who assist in bearing the burdens. Consequently, I go for admitting all whites to the right of suffrage *who pay taxes or bear arms* (by no means excluding females)." As this statement was made when Lincoln was only twenty-seven years of age, and as it constitutes the only mention of votes for women by Mr. Lincoln, notwithstanding the fact that the Woman Suffrage Movement had reached considerable proportions by 1850, Mr. Richards concludes that there is not sufficient evidence to warrant the statement that Mr. Lincoln favored woman suffrage; nor is there evidence, on the other hand, to prove that he opposed it.

Lincoln's criticism of the decision of the supreme court of the United States, in the case of Dred Scott vs. Sanford, has been often referred to in recent years to justify assaults upon the courts, and as an argument for the recall of judicial decisions. Mr. Richards shows conclusively that a careful review of all that Mr. Lincoln said upon the subject shows that he was a "firm believer in and champion of the independence of the judiciary." He shows that the main criticism of the Dred Scott decision, made by Mr. Lincoln, is a criticism of the *obiter dicta*, in which he held that the majority of the justices had exceeded their authority and had undertaken to decide matters not properly before the court. There seems to be little in Mr. Lincoln's criticism of this case on which to base some of the attacks on our courts that claim to be justified by it.

On the whole, Mr. Richards' book is well written and will amply repay a careful reading. The last chapter adds little to our knowledge of Lincoln, and one regrets the fact that it was included, as it seems hardly up to the standard of the other chapters. The book is the result of careful study and investigation of records of the Illinois courts in which Mr. Lincoln practiced.

JAMES MILLER LEAKE.